CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for arranging air transportation, including the steps of:

receiving a request for a flight from a customer; and,

searching a composite database and identifying a potential air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available flights by multiple air charter companies.

2. A method, set forth in claim 1, wherein the multiple air charter companies are participating air charter companies.

3. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

4. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the request is sent from a customer via email, a facsimile, telephone, and/or other communication method.

5. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the request includes a preferred destination and/or origin.

6. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the air transportation solution includes a travel cost and/or a departure time and/or an arrival time.

7. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the air transportation solution includes a name of a participating charter company.

8. The method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of receiving a fee or commission on the air transportation solution.

9. The method, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the fee or commission is a function of a cost associated with the air transportation solution.

10. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the air transportation solution is created from available space on the charter flights.

11. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the available space includes empty flights.

12. The method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the available space includes empty seats.

13. The method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of including information related to flight requests of customers.

14. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the air charter companies pay a membership fee.

15. The method, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the customer pays a membership fee.

16. The method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of storing the request in a request database.

17. The method, as set forth in claim 16, including the step of creating a charter flight to fulfill the request.

18. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the available flights stored in the composite database are organized using a geographic coding system.

19. The method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein the potential air transportation solution is based on the geographic coding system.

20. The method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the geographic coding solution allows for inexact matches.

21. The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the potential air transportation solution is not an exact match.

22. The method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein the geographic coding system includes a first code representative of an airport.

23. The method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein the geographic coding system includes a second code representative of a county.

24. The method, as set forth in claim 23, wherein the geographic coding system includes a third code representative of a group of counties.

25. The method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein the geographic coding system includes a fourth code representative of a state.

26. A method for arranging air transportation for a person, including the steps of:

receiving a request for a flight from a customer;

searching a composite database and determining an air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available space on charter flights by multiple charter companies; and,

receiving a fee or commission on the air transportation solution.

27. The method, set forth in claim 26, wherein the multiple charter companies are participating charter companies.

28. The method, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

29. A computer based method for arranging air transportation over a computer network, including the steps of:

receiving a request for a flight from a customer at a remote location;

delivering the request from the remote location to a central location over the computer network; and,

searching a composite database and determining an air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available flights by individual charter operators.

30. The computer based method, set forth in claim 29, wherein the charter operators are participating air charter companies.

31. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

32. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the request includes a preferred destination and/or origin.

33. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the air transportation solution includes a travel cost and/or a departure time and/or an arrival time.

34. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the air transportation solution includes a name of a participating charter company.

35. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of receiving a fee or commission on the air transportation solution.

36. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 35, wherein the fee or commission is a function of a cost associated with the air transportation solution.

37. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the air transportation solution is created from available space on the charter flights.

38. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 37, wherein the available space includes empty flights.

39. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 37, wherein the available space includes empty seats.

40. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of delivering the air transportation solution to the customer at the remote location over the computer network.

41. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of providing a customer interface at the remote location.

42. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of providing access to the computer network to subscribers, wherein the customer is a subscriber.

43. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of including information related to flight requests of customers.

44. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 43, wherein the customers pay a membership fee.

45. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the charter companies pay a membership fee.

46. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 29, including the step of storing the request in a request database.

47. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 46, including the step of creating a charter flight to fulfill the request.

48. A computer based method for arranging air transportation over a computer network, including the steps of:

receiving a request for a flight from a customer at a remote location;

delivering the request from the remote location to a central location over the computer network;

searching a composite database and identifying a potential air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available space on available flights by multiple charter companies; and,

receiving a fee or commission on the air transportation solution.

49. The computer based method, set forth in claim 48, wherein the multiple charter companies are participating air charter companies.

50. The computer based method, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

51. A computer system for arranging air transportation over a computer network, comprising:

a first module located at a remote location and being adapted to receive a request for a flight from a customer at a remote location; and,

a second module coupled to the first module and being located at a central location, the second module including a composite database and being adapted to receive the request from the remote location, search the composite database and determine an air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available flights by individual charter operators.

52. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the charter operators are participating air charter companies.

53. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

54. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the request includes a preferred destination and/or origin.

55. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the air transportation solution includes a travel cost and/or a departure time and/or an arrival time.

56. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the air transportation solution includes a name of a participating charter company.

57. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein a fee or commission is received on the air transportation solution.

58. The computer system, as set forth in claim 57, wherein the fee or commission is a function of a cost associated with the air transportation solution.

59. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the air transportation solution is created from available space on the charter flights.

60. The computer system, as set forth in claim 59, wherein the available space includes empty flights.

61. The computer system, as set forth in claim 59, wherein the available space includes empty seats.

62. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, including a customer interface implemented on the first module.

63. The computer system, as set forth in claim 62, where the customer interface provides access to the composite database.

64. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein access is only provided to subscribers, wherein the customer is a subscriber.

65. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein full access is only provided to subscribers and limited access is provided to non-subscribers.

66. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein information related to flight requests of customers is included.

67. The computer system, as set forth in claim 66, wherein the customers pay a membership fee.

68. The computer system, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the request is stored in a request database.

69. A computer system for arranging air transportation over a computer network, comprising:

a first module located at a remote location and being adapted to receive a request for a flight from a customer at a remote location; and,

a second module coupled to the first module and being located at a central location, the second module including a composite database and being adapted to receive the request from the remote location, search the composite database and identify at least one potential air transportation solution as a function of the request, the composite database containing information related to available space on available flights by multiple charter companies, wherein a fee is received on the air transportation solution.

70. The computer system, set forth in claim 69, wherein the multiple charter companies are participating air charter companies.

71. The computer system, as set forth in claim 69, wherein the composite database is searchable by destination and/or origin.

72. The method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the geographic coding system identifies arrival and departure locations by longitude and latitude.

73. The method, as set forth in claim 72, wherein the geographic coding system identifies locations directly.

74. The method, as set forth in claim 72, wherein the geographic coding system identifies locations indirectly.

75. The method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the available flights stored in the composite database are identified using a geographic coding system.

76. The method, as set forth in claim 75, wherein the potential air transportation solution is based on the geographic coding system.

77. The method, as set forth in claim 76, wherein the geographic coding solution allows for inexact matches.

78. The method, as set forth in claim 69, wherein the potential air transportation solution is not an exact match.

79. The method, as set forth in claim 51, wherein the available flights stored in the composite database are identified using a geographic coding system.

80. The method, as set forth in claim 79, wherein the potential air transportation solution is based on the geographic coding system.

81. The method, as set forth in claim 80, wherein the geographic coding solution allows for inexact matches.

82. The method, as set forth in claim 5140, wherein the potential air transportation solution is not an exact match.